

For more information or
an application form,
please contact:

Office of Pastoral Care
Archdiocese of Louisville
1200 South Shelby Street
Louisville, KY 40203

(502) 636-0296, ext. 1244



Office of Pastoral Care Mission Statement

To promote and assist in the formation of parish-based Pastoral Care networks as well as the coordination of all pastoral care service for Catholic patients, residents and their families at Hospitals and Nursing Homes throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville. This office will also assist with serving as a resource for parishes regarding Pastoral Care Parish Ministry.

BeFriender Ministry

**Catholic
Pastoral Care
Team Ministry**

Jointly sponsored by

Baptist Hospital East,
Kosair Children's
Hospital, University of
Louisville Hospital
&
Archdiocese of Louisville



Office of Pastoral Care

This is a unique Pastoral Care program. It is not a formal training process in the model of classical clinical pastoral education programs for hospital chaplains. It does not displace or substitute for certified CPE chaplains with well-meaning but lesser trained volunteers. This is a program that creates a lay pastoral care team for visitation to Catholic patients and their families.

The participants are lay members of the Catholic community. They are men and women who offer their time and talents as a lay pastoral care team ministry to visit and comfort Catholic patients and family members during their hospitalization. The Befriender team provides a spiritually supportive non-judgmental listening ministry of compassionate care to hospital patients.

They also assist with contacts and referrals to parish communities when patients request their assistance in either maintain or re-connect with their home parish.

The Befriender team can serve as a bridge with the patient's home parish to assure continuing pastoral care upon discharge.

The Befriender Ministry team consists of several pairs of trained volunteers who donate their time and service to this ministry. After completion of the training program, the Befriender team will be commissioned to serve for 2.5 years at one of the participating hospitals.

The covenant signed by each team member acknowledges a commitment to team collaboration, continuing education/formation and participation in 'Making Meaning' support groups. After the initial years of service, a team member may request to continue in the ministry with the approval of the Office of Pastoral Care for Archdiocese of Louisville and the Hospital pastoral care office. This Befriender Ministry: Catholic Pastoral Care Training Program for hospital of your choice is 50 hours of instruction and formation (40hrs.) and onsite hospital visitation (10hrs.).

The total cost for this program, including all materials and handbooks is \$125. (includes a non-refundable \$25. application fee).

Hospital volunteer orientation programs must be completed in addition to this training program before you can be commissioned as a member of the Pastoral Care Team Ministry. The hospital orientation will take place during the training program at a time determined by the hospital pastoral care office. The orientation will include requirements for TB testing and vaccinations, if needed.

The Befriender Ministry works in collaboration with the hospital office of pastoral care as an extension of that office. As a hospital minister you are required to observe all the necessary protocols and HIPPA regulations outlined by the hospital administration. Supervision for your ministry will be a shared responsibility of the hospital office of pastoral care and the Archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Care.